Costs of long-term institutional care and consumer preferences are shifting care from facility-based to community-based care

Medical Foster Home (MFH) merges adult foster care with Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)

MFH provides an alternative to nursing home for selected Veterans with nursing home level of care needs who cannot safely remain at home

A MFH caregiver is an individual in the community

The MFH caregiver provides daily personal care, management, and caregiver education

VA MFH Coordinator provides oversight

Veteran pays for MFH (room and board)

VA HBPC Coordinator provides oversight

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"Is MFH a safe, cost effective substitute to nursing home care for eligible Veterans?"

"The other challenge we have, because anyone can open these homes, our caregivers can say to us, look, we're really not happy with the VA. We don't like all the rules. We don't like all the legislation so we're just gonna go on our own and then the patient can elect to say, I'm gonna stay with this caregiver. So we have to really walk a very fine line with caregivers to that extent."

If the VA addresses themes identified in this research, MFH programs may grow to become more viable, attainable, and appealing options for long-term care for Veterans while easing the strain on already overcrowded nursing home facilities

This research contributes to a larger national study designed to examine factors influencing enrollment in the VA MFH program and answer, the question: "Is MFH a safe, cost effective substitute to nursing home care for eligible Veterans?"

All research was approved by the VA Central Institutional Research Board. Please contact leah.haverhals@va.gov with comments.

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